

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 8-34 and 38-42 are pending in the application, with claim 8 being the only independent claim. Claims 1-7 and 35-37 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter is being introduced with this amendment.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to for the minor informalities. In particular, the Examiner noted that the numeral “8” should be deleted from paragraph 53, lines 2 and 6. Applicants note that the paragraph to which the Examiner referred is paragraph 56 of the substitute specification. Applicants have amended the paragraph to delete “not shown” when referring to reference numeral 8. The drawings have also been amended to replace reference numeral “9” adjacent color storage unit 13 with numeral “8”. Accordingly, The objection to the specification has been overcome and Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to as including reference numeral “161” in FIG. 6 which was allegedly not mentioned in the description. FIG. 6 does not include a reference numeral “161”. However, FIG. 7 does include reference numeral “161”. The original specification at paragraph [0061], line 5 mentions reference numeral “161”. Similarly, the Substitute Specification at paragraph [0064] mentions reference numeral “161”. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The claims have been amended above to overcome the rejections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8, 10, 11, 14-18, 22, 23, 29, 30, 35, and 37-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 10-6363 (“the JP ‘6363 publication”). Independent claim 8 has been amended above to more clearly recite that the additive feed line is connected within the heated distributor channel arrangement. The JP ‘6363 publication does not disclose such an arrangement. In particular the JP ‘6363 publication shows that coloring agent supply path (13) is connected to the mixing equipment (4), which is upstream of the runner plate (23). Runner plate (23) of the JP ‘6363 publication is the equivalent of the heated distributor

channel arrangement recited in independent claim 8. The JP ‘6363 publication requires additional components, mixing equipment (4) in housing (10), to mix the additive material with the injection material prior to entering the runner plate (23). Claim 8 recites that the mixing apparatus and the connection for the additive feed line is incorporated into the distributor channels. Accordingly, the JP ‘6363 publication does not disclose every element of independent claim 8. Claims 9-34 and 38-42 depend from and add features to independent claim 8 and are therefore allowable over the JP ‘6363 publication for at least the same reasons as claim 8. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 12, 13, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the JP ‘6363 publication. The Examiner asserts that shifting the location of the additive feed line would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As noted above, the JP ‘6363 publication requires an additional housing within which the mixing equipment is located to mix the additive with the injection material. The claims of the present invention, on the other hand, incorporate the additive feed line connection and the mixing equipment into the heated distributor channel arrangement, and therefore an additional housing is not required. Accordingly, independent claim 8, and claims 9, 12, 13, 27, and 28 which depend therefrom, are not disclosed or suggested by the JP ‘6363 publication. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,679

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600